

REPORT TO: POLICY COMMITTEE ON 30 APRIL 2008

SUBJECT: SERVICE IMPROVEMENT PRIORITIES – HOUSING – 2008/09

BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 This report presents proposed Service Improvement priorities for Housing in 2008/09 for the Committee's approval.
- 1.2 This report is submitted to Committee in terms of Section A(60) – A(70) of the Council's Administrative Scheme relating to the Council's housing functions.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Policy Committee:–

- (i) **approves the Service Improvement priorities for housing in 2008/09; and**
- (ii) **notes that quarterly monitoring reports will be presented to future meetings.**

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Annually, Departments complete a Service Improvement Plan. In addition to Housing Services the Community Services Departmental Improvement Plan covers Children & Families and Community Care. As these activities do not fall within the remit of the Policy Committee, this report simply presents the priorities proposed for Housing Services in 2008/09.
- 3.2 A separate item on the Committee's agenda presents the progress achieved in 2007/08 on Housing improvement priorities. Where actions are required to continue into 2008/09, the priorities are carried forward.
- 3.3 **APPENDIX I** provides details of the priorities proposed for 2008/09. These continue to reflect broad priorities included within the Council's Single Outcome Agreement, Community Plan and housing strategies and focus on increasing the supply of affordable housing, tackling homelessness, improving housing quality and improving service quality.
- 3.4 On 5 March 2008, the Committee considered a report on the inspection of the Council's housing services (paragraph 52 of the Minute refers). The Scottish Housing Regulator has now confirmed that the Council's housing services will be inspected during 2008/09, with inspection provisionally likely to commence in mid September 2008. Preparation for inspection will be a key element in 2008/09 in working to improve service quality.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Corporate Development Plan/Community Plan/Service Improvement Plan

This report reflects the priorities identified in the Single Outcome Agreement, the Moray Community Plan and Local Housing Strategy.

(b) Policy and Legal

There are no policy or legal implications arising from this report.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

There are currently no resource issues arising from the proposed Improvement Plan for 2008/09.

(d) Consultations

Consultation on the Service Improvement Priorities for Housing has been carried out with the Director of Community Services and senior managers within the Housing Service.

5. CONCLUSION

- 5.1 This report presents Service Improvement priorities for housing for 2008/09. These reflect priorities for action identified within the Single Outcome Agreement, the Moray Community Plan and the Local Housing Strategy.**

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Background Papers: Held by CHO
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